

### Issue of Passports

**5056. Shri C. C. Desai:** Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the past, it has been the practice, more or less, to refuse passports to people on political considerations, and particularly, to members of the Communist Party and DMK; and

(b) if so, whether Government will give the figures of the passports issued and rejected for both Communists and DMK separately during the year 1966-67?

**The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla):** (a) No, Sir. Mere Political affiliation was no ground for refusal of a passport.

(b) Does not arise.

### A.I.R. Station in Andhra Pradesh

**5057. Shri V. Narasimha Rao:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of All India Radio stations in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the power of relay stations of Visakhapatnam and Kaudapali into 20 KV; and

(c) if so, particulars thereof?

**The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri K. K. Shah):** (a) The State of Andhra Pradesh has four All India Radio Centres at Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Cuddapah.

(b) There is no proposal to increase the power of the relay stations at Visakhapatnam and Cuddapah as the existing power of the transmitters is adequate to cover the area.

(c) Does not arise.

### Donkinivalasa Airport, Andhra Pradesh

**5058. Shri V. Narasimha Rao:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the

Donkinivalasa (Srikakulam District) Airport in Andhra Pradesh is not being used since long;

(b) the money spent for its construction;

(c) the steps taken to improve the airport; and

(d) if the reply to part (c) be in the negative the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** (a) to (d). The airfield is known as 'Bobbili airfield' and is situated near Donkinivalasa Railway Station. It was constructed during the World War II. Information regarding its cost of construction is not available at this stage. It is now an abandoned airfield and is not, therefore, maintained. The runways, taxi-tracks, hardstandings and dispersals at the airfield are being retained for use in an emergency.

### Immovable Property acquired by Indian Ambassadors abroad

**5059. Shri C. C. Desai:** Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Ambassadors abroad who have acquired immovable property either by purchase or by lease in the areas under their jurisdiction while serving as Ambassadors or High Commissioners in those places;

(b) whether it is a fact that the late Mr. Rauf negotiated and acquired property in Canada, while he was actually High Commissioner for India, and secondly, whether this fact was known to the Government of India and yet no action was taken either to discourage or to negative such a transaction; and

(c) whether Government will issue instructions to all the diplomatic personnel abroad to scrupulously refrain from acquiring immovable property in their jurisdiction while serving abroad?